

September, 1998

Vol 6 # 09

THIS MEETING

Date: **Thursday - September 28, 1998**
 Time: **7:30 PM**
 Program: **Jim - WB9LNU** will show and demonstrate his **1910 model spark transmitter** to commemorate the **100th Anniversary** of the first North American wireless transmission.

Place: **Redemption Lutheran Church**
 Fellowship Hall
 4057 N. Mayfair Rd. (Use the south entrance)

Handicapped accessible.

Please! DON'T call the Church for information!!!

Material (Articles or pictures) for next Chatter
Due: October 1st

Prez Stuff for September

We are now in September. Did you get all your summer projects done? I am still working on my summer 1975 projects... For people who enjoy learning about radio history, the September meeting should be a good one. Jim will bring the spark transmitter he previously had at a meeting, and will also have an identical transmitter to the one used for the first transatlantic radio communication which happened 100 years ago this month. See the August CQ magazine for details on that story. The August meeting was a number of Yaesu equipment video tapes. Were we selling Yaesu equipment? No, but it was a chance for you to get information on some new equipment without any sales pressure. Thanks to AES for supplying the tapes.

Now that we are in September, December can not be too far away (time for antenna work). December 13 is the annual Christmas party

presltr cont on pg. 3



*The World's Oldest Continuously
 Active Radio Amateur Club
 Since 1917
 ARRL affiliation since 1919.*

Phone 466-HAMS or FAX 461-7730

Use our Club repeater - W9RH
 147.045 + offset

CLUB OFFICERS:

President 529-5583
 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
 1st V. Pres. 483-4389
 Matt Planning KB9PRC
 2nd V. Pres. 548-6138
 Brian White KB9LCO
 Secretary 1 (414) 968-2724
 Jim Tromblay WB9LNU
 Treasurer 796-0969
 Ken Eggert W9MOT

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 Gerald Melotik KC9EV
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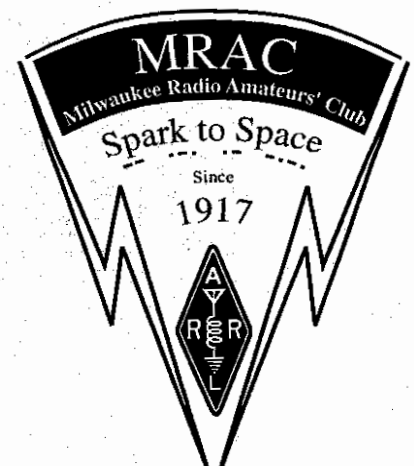
HAMATEUR CHATTER

Editor

Pancho Doneis ... KA9OFA
 344-4694

Circulation/Roster

Jerry Thompson ... WA9SFH
 354-6943
 Dick Schlatterer ... KA9MTY
 354-7452



MILWAUKEE AREA NETS

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2 nd shifter's Net
TUE	7:00 PM	442.200	General Racine N9OEZ repeater
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A..F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	W9RH 10 meter MRAC Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045	W9RH 2 mtr. net following the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call 466-HAMS.

HAM Related Telephone BBS's

(Computer Bulletin Board Services)

Digital Ham Shack AES 358-3472
 node 1 251-1106
 node 2 251-0201

Editor's Notes



Your Editor

Pancho



MRAC VEC

FCC HAM RADIO EXAMS

Second Sat. of Each Month

1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Wauwatosa Savings Bank
 6560 S. 27th St.
Oak Creek, WI

Last Sat. of Each Month

9:30 A.M. - Noon
 Amateur Electronics Supply
 5700 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

You will not be permitted to take the exam without these items:

- 1) Your original license (if you have one) and a photocopy of it.
- 2) Any CSCE's you may have (and a photocopy of each).
- 3) Two forms of identification (examples: driver's license and social security card)
- 4) **\$6.35** (exam fee).

Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to:

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
 P.O. Box 25707
 Milwaukee, WI 53225
 For more information call:
 466-HAMS

If you have questions about a new license or upgrade, you may call the FCC at:

1-888-225-5322

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(reservations will be required prior to that, probably by the first week of December). Anyone interested in helping out with the arrangements for the Christmas party, let me or anyone on the board know. In order to make it happen takes a lot of work. With enough people no one has to do too much.

FCC: The FCC has released what may be phase 1 of its proposed changes to Amateur Radio rules. While the proposal as written does not seem too drastic, the FCC has left the door open for more changes based on comments received. Therefore, be sure to read the proposal and comment. Read it for yourself, do not rely on what you hear on the air. The complete proposal is available on the FCC web site. Official comments must be filed by December 1. Comments on comments (reply comments) are to be filed by January 15. Also for the first time in amateur radio, the FCC is accepting electronic comments (no more original and 14 copies). If you do not com-

ment on the proposal, don't complain about the results.

ARRL: Speaking of Amateur Radio's future, politics, and commenting, ARRL Central Division elections are coming up. Ballots should be mailed by October 1 and must be returned by November 20. There is actually more than 1 person running for director and vice-director. If you are an ARRL member (and you should be, they are our only national voice), be sure to vote. Also (and this is my personal opinion, not that as club President), do not blindly vote for the incumbents. Think about what they have done for amateur radio, for you, and for this club. Response from the ARRL and division people to this club has been rather cool (like the vice director not even responding to correspondence). Maybe a change is in order? Just maybe? If not, please let us know why (I'm sure Pancho would be glad to publish your comments).

VOLUNTEERS: We need to recognize volunteers who work for the club. Starting this month we will try

to recognize anyone who was involved in some club operations in the past month. Here goes:

Jerry Melotik KC9EV for having the August board meeting at his house Brian White KB9LCQ has offered to take over the Member Database and Mailing List from Jerry Thompson WA9SFH (thanks for the great job Jerry). Tom Sherlowsky N9UFJ and Jacquie Ho for handling raffle tickets Hal Newton N9PSM for refreshments at the meeting. Don Virlee KG9II for member badges at the meeting. Dick Schlatterer KA9MTY for Chatter mailing. Ed Willie W9PWG for providing the VCR, TV and PA for the meeting. Anyone who brought down stuff for the raffle. Anyone who helped set up and take down chairs at the meeting. Anyone who submitted material to Pancho for the Chatter (and thanks to Pancho for the Chatter). VEs should be covered elsewhere.

Would you like to be mentioned in this space...VOLUNTEER!

Dave WB9BWP

Member Notes:

- Our congratulations go to **Rick Kissell - WB9GYT (Great Young Talent)**. Rick recently worked in Chicago as a translator for a special conference. He translated for eight hours a day in several languages. Rick is putting up a Sommers multiband beam antenna. We hope to hear it on the air soon. He also got his newborn son Paul giving us sound effects on the Friday night 10 meter net. Who says this Club doesn't have talented members?!
 - **Dick Schlatterer - KA9MTY**, Sunday, September 9 suffered a heart attack and was admitted to St. Michael's Hospital. We all wish him our best.
- Update** - He is out of ICU, is on the 4th floor and can have visitors.

MRAC Board Meeting - 8/24/'98

The meeting was held at Jerry Melotik - KC9EV's QTH.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Jerry was asked when will he purchase the tables and chairs (for Field Day, etc.) that were approved at the previous meeting. Jerry says that he will wait until they are on sale, so he can get the nicest ones possible.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasures report -- Total liquid assets \$3293.52 Total including CD's \$9293.52.

The board decided to give away the repeater to any club member that wants it or take it to Radio Recyclers. Both the old Motorola and the tube type GE must be taken.

Because of all the interference from the Michigan repeater the board has decided to put our repeater on PL of 127.3 so our repeater is not constantly tripped by the Michigan one. When the skip is good our own people can't use the repeater due to extreme interference and capture effect from the high power Michigan boys. Ed says the VA was hoping to get rich quick on us and wanted a considerable sum to put our repeater on their roof. They wanted over \$100.00 per month..

VEC testing will start on Saturday this week with Ed at the controls. Pancho has put the details into the (AUG.) Chatter. Ed says that he still doesn't have the new General

Class test, so he will continue to use the existing ones until he receives the new ones. Ed is also making a new VE volunteer list and says he needs more volunteers for this coming year. Advanced class people can now sign the General and Tech CSCE's.

The board has decided to put plans for the MRAC school on hold until the FCC comes out with the new license proposals. Should they decide to give General Class privileges to 5 wpm holders and Advance and Extra to 12 wpm holders, the demand for code classes and theory should skyrocket. We might consider a Tech school if AES doesn't do it anymore.

Dave says that if anyone from the club wants a class and can get several people to take it, we may make a special exception and try to have a class.

The idea of having a club data base was discussed. We need someone to generate the data and create a new roster, mailing labels and update the data every few months or so. Brian KB9LCQ has volunteered to take on this task.

A motion was made to set up a charge account at Office Depot so anyone can pick up the Chatter without having to use their own money to pay for the printing. The Chatter's come stapled and folded, so only stamps and address labels need be added.

Brian will make a years supply of labels and Ken W9MOT will provide the money for the stamps in advance. Dave says that over half of the membership dues goes to getting the Chatter out during the year. It has been decided that electronic publishing of the Chatter is just too much work and since we have no volunteer this idea is on permanent hold.

Pancho says that he is almost ready to start with the new format on the Chatter.

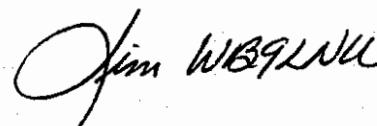
Dave -- I guess that I will have to appoint several people to take care of the food at the club meetings. Since I have no volunteers.

The club meeting program for September will be on Spark Transmitters by Jim WB9LNU. Besides the 1910 spark transmitter seen at the earlier meetings, Jim has a new 1898 unit that was battery powered and they used a knife switch for a key. The capacitor was made with a Pyrex cake dish and aluminum foil.

Next meeting, we will start getting most of the details ironed out for the Xmas party.

Thanks to Jerry for the use of his QTH and the goodies.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Club Meeting 8/28/98

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasures report -- Total liquid assets \$3293.52 Total Assets with CD's, VEC Fund etc.: \$9293.52.

Ken -- Dues for next year are being accepted starting Sept. 1 The dues are still \$15.00. The dues pays for the Xmas party, Chatter and Field Day. Repeater and other expenses are paid mostly from interest on the CD's and raffle money. Money for the treats at the meetings are covered by donations in the cup at the serving window. VEC expenses are covered by testing fee's. Misc. expenses are also covered by the interest on the CD's.

The Mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave informed the members that the clubs old repeater can be had for free just by asking for it. If no-one ask for it we will try to sell it

through Radio Recyclers. Or just throw it away. The GE repeater has tubes in it and we have no idea what condition it is in. The Motorola is not complete because the controller and rack are going to be used with the new repeater.

Dave -- It would be nice if someone else would be net control on the 10 meter and 2 meter net once and awhile. It was not intended that ED be a permanent controller. Try it, You might have fun.

The club school is on hold until we see what the new proposals are from the FCC on license structure changes. The FCC is looking for ideas and comments on the proposals they published a few weeks ago. The comment dead line is Dec. 1, 1998.

Brian, KB9LCQ will take over for Jerry WA9SFH with the clubs data file and roster. Brian will also provide the mailing labels for the

Chatter.

Xmas Party plans are being discussed by the board and the details will be worked out at the next board meeting. We have only 3 more meetings before the Christmas party. Details will be in the Chatter.

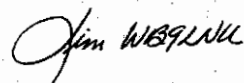
Mark, KB9LDS has a packet bulletin and there is some info on the club in the bulletin. The frequency is 145.030. Check in some time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Next month's program will be on a 1898 spark transmitter by WB9LNU.

Thanks to Hal for taking care of the donuts and drinks and Tom and Jacque for running the raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

Program to Commemorate 100th Anniversary of Spark

MRAC Meeting this month will be on spark transmitters by Jim, WB9LNU. The month of September is the 100th anniversary of the first North American wireless transmission. The event took place in 1898 at Notre Dame University.

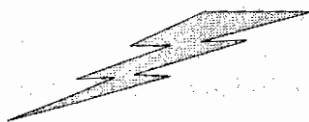
WB9LNU has a spark transmitter exactly like the one used in this historic event as well as a 1910 model with a rotary spark gap. Galena crystal receivers will also be shown.

Along with the live demonstration of the transmitters actually working (just for a few seconds) will be a brief history of what was taking place during this time in history.

Special Notice TO All Members

The MRAC repeater (147.045+) will soon require a **PL tone of 127.3** to get in. This change is due to the interference we are getting from the high power repeater in Michigan. Please enter the proper PL tone into the programming of your 2 meter radios.

Thanks,
MRAC Board



MRAC VEC Report

The first testing session after our summer break had twelve taking the exams. Only two failed - six CSCE's and four upgrades including an Extra. It kept the VE team for three hours! It was a nice way to restart our testing program. Thanks go to Kate, Dick and Bob for all their hard work.

73



Ed - W9PWG, VEC

Thanks also to Ed, our VEC

I Tappa Kee

I TAPPA KEY The Amateurs' Legion of Honor

During the early 1930's, a national magazine titled "RADIO" was published by a group of west coast amateurs, among them were names such as Col. Clair Foster, Frank Jones, and Clayton Bane. Col. Foster was an outspoken critic of the ARRL, and was one of the leaders in a movement to get rid of K.B. Warner, of the ARRL staff, a controversial and disliked Director. Frank Jones was the Engineering Editor of RADIO who also was a tech writer and developer of new ham gear. Clayton Bane was Chief Editor and publication coordinator.

The ITK organization was formed of, by, and for the CW ham. They did not openly condemn the use of AM, but told the phone men that they were welcome to join if they could pass an "on-the-air 20 wpm message handling test". This, in effect, served as an efficient filter mechanism, and caused a great deal of antagonism.

The organization was also very critical of the ARRL's handling of their representation at an International Conference, devoted to the re-assignment of frequencies, wherein the amateurs lost spectrum to the "commercials", as they were called in "them days". Ham radio was very "traffic oriented" in the 1920's, well organized and effective. ITK and RADIO saw the 1930's as a deterioration and decay of public service. They also viewed this "decline" as a further source of spectrum losses.

They favored moving the ARRL out of West Hartford, Ct., to the Midwest, closer to the center of operations. They felt that Hiram Percy Maxim was being "hoodwinked by Warner", and that Warner had to go. Warner had a very lucrative contract with the ARRL involving the publication of QST, wherein he collected a "bonus" on each subscription (and membership) that was gained. (It was held that the membership and magazine subscription were inseparable, and thus you could not get the magazine without becoming a member, thus adding to Warner's "take". Of course, QST was available on the newstand, but Warner also had that one covered by an additional clause in the contract based on total production volume.



The controversy between RADIO vs. QST was quite heated, and the battle for subscriptions was quite brisk. Keep in mind that in the late 20's and early 30's, we were in the grip of the "Depression", and guys were scrounging parts out of alley cans and from radio repair shop junk. This served to limit subscription money, and led to a lot of magazine swapping.

Eventually, all this was settled

by WWII's shutdown of ham radio. By this time, RADIO had lost a few of the "louder mouths", and eventually was bought by other publishers, whose magazines had other names—some successful, some not (R9, 73, and others).

Wayne Green, I believe, was the last crusader in the chain, and his popularity "waned" after a while.

Ham radio has had many changes from its inception with its concept of traffic handling as a public service without cost to the recipient. This also produced an attack by the commercials, such as Western Union, Postal Telegraph, and the cable Co.'s who made their views and demands known at International Conferences. History shows that the amateurs have lost spectrum, slowly but steadily, as the needs for spectrum have preempted ham radio's status, by advancing technology, and our steady loss of "public necessity". Such services as television, Citizens' Band radio, cellular phones, Internet, etc. have opened up communication channels to persons not requiring special training (i.e. COO), or amateur-maintained repeaters, and have largely removed the ham from disaster responsibility.

Fred - W9NZF

Flash

HAM Classes

AES Will be having Radio Amateur (HAM) classes on October 12, 14, and 16. At present they are planning for only No CodeTech preparation. For more details on classes Call Amateur Electronics Supply.

HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

CQ Third Tuesday

11:00 am
Old Country Buffet
164th and Bluemound

Y'all come(!) to the **MRAC HAM BREAKFAST** every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at **Maxim's Restaurant** 18025 W. Capitol Dr. (a bit west of Calhoun). Prices are reasonable, the food good, and the company excellent.

First Friday Fish Fry

Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma Ave. Call: Warren - K9IZV on the 146.91 - offset for reservations by Noon on that FRI.

W9RH-10 & 2 METER NETS

W9RH Ten Meter Net 8:45 PM at 28.490 MHz. SSB Friday evenings at 9:15 2 meter FM repeater at 147.045 + offset. We'd like to meet you there.

CLUB MEETINGS

Menomonee Falls Amateur Club

Last Wed of the month
Doors open @ 7:00 p.m. Mtg @ 7:30 p.m.
Bank One Bldg. @
Pilgrim Rd. and McQuon Rd.
Germantown, WI

CLUB MEETINGS continued

Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club

Last Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Miller Valley Radio Amateur Club

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
at 703 N. 39th St.,
just north of (and almost under)
the Wis. Ave. viaduct.
For info contact: Art - WA9AWJ
(found daily on the 146.91 repeater).

Ozaukee Radio Club

Second Wed. of each month
7:30 p.m.
Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center
Grafton, WI

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

First Wednesday of each month
American Legion Post 434
9327 S. Sheppard Ave
Oak Creek, WI
Auction at March & October mtgs.

West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Meets the second Tuesday of each month
at 8:00 p.m.
At St. Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, WI

NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles and information for the newsletter should be received by the editor no later than the first of the month of publication. If received after the first of the month, its inclusion in that month's edition cannot be guaranteed. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please mail submissions to:

HamateurChatter

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP KA9MWT W9NZF
WB9LNU W9PWG



Our People

October Birthdays

Alfred H. Huwald ----- KB9SLC ----- 10-01
"Flash" Gordon ----- N9IOI ----- 10-02
Willson G. Flor ----- K9CAP ----- 10-03
Leroy W. Shuber ----- KB9JBD ----- 10-06
Winfried "Fritz" Jusak -- WB9RMC --- 10-08
Orv Stewart ----- KA9ONQ --- 10-09
Philip S. Lehmann ----- KB9FOQ --- 10-09
Fred H. Eltzsch ----- W9QMD --- 10-14
Joseph R. Harkness ----- W9GZR --- 10-15
Pancho Doneis Jr. ----- KA9OFA --- 10-15

Christopher A. Welton -- WD9GZL ---- 10-16
Melvin Bernstein ----- W9WZ ----- 10-18
Robert E. Brown ----- N9WPG ----- 10-20
Thomas R. Gettleman --- W9IZO ----- 10-21
Jim W. Tromblay, Sr. --- WB9LNU --- 10-21
Mel L. Amidzich ----- WA9PZU --- 10-22
George J. Pfister ----- W9IZQ ----- 10-24
Vern R. Petersen ----- W9PGL ----- 10-26
Christopher Keough ---- KG9GQ ----- 10-29
Brian W. White ----- KB9LCQ --- 10-30

73,

KATE - KA9MWT

Use our
W9RH Repeater
147.045 MHz + offset

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Upcoming Events

* Indicates VE Testing

MRAC GENERAL MEETING

THUR.-SEPT. 24, '98

7:30 PM

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

Board mtg. Sept.21

RADIO EXPO 98 *

SAT&SUN - SEP. 26 & 27, 1998

Lake County Fairgrounds

Grayslake, IL

T/I on 146.16/76 rpt. (108.2Hz PL)

5TH ANNUAL *

MACOMB HAMFEST-COMPUTERFEST

SUN.-Nov. 1, 1998

National Guard Armory

Macomb, IL

T/I on 147.060/147.660 &

444.3000/449.30 rpt. s

FRIENDLYFEST '98 *

SAT. Nov 7, 1998

Waukesha County Expo Center

Waukesha, WI

T/I on 146.91- (127.3 PL)

AND 146.52 SIMP.

FOX CITIES HAMFEST *

Nov. 8, 1998

Starlight Club

Kaukauna, WI

T/I on 146.52 simp.

Send Fliers or info to:

PANCHO DONEIS, KA9OFA

1958 N. 38th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53208

or Phone: (414) 344-4694 or

pancho@thepark.net

Hamateur Chatter --- 8 --- SEPTEMBER 1998



Milwaukee
Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Sept., 1998 Vol 6 #09

THIS MEETING

Thur.-Sept. 24, '98

Board mtg. Sept.21

Next Meeting

Oct. 29, 1998



M
R
A
C

.P/98 J10/68
DAVID B. DeFEBO WB9BWP
S67 W12620 LARKSPUR ROAD
MUSKEGO, WI 53150

